

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

Lansing, Michigan

September 16, 2020

Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945 and Executive Directive 2020-154, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC) met via video conference call, on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

Members Present

Roger Salo, Chair
Rick Fiddler, Vice Chair
Dr. Brian Smith, Commissioner
Russ Kavalhuna, Commissioner
Kelly Burris, Commissioner
Brig. Gen. Bryan Teff, Designee - MDMVA
Laura Mester, Designee - MDOT
Kevin Jacobs, Designee – MDNR
F/Lt. Brian Bahlau, Designee – MSP
Mike Trout, Director
Bryan Budds, Commission Advisor
Alicia Morrison, Commission Analyst

Members Absent

None

I. OPENING REMARKS

Director Mike Trout began by explaining the meeting was being held via video conference call in accordance with Executive Directive 2020-154, enacted to allow teleconference public meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He welcomed all who were participating and thanked the Commissioners for coming together in the virtual format. He then turned the meeting over to Chairperson Roger Salo.

The September 16, 2020 MAC meeting was officially called to order by Chair Roger Salo at 1:05 p.m.

Chair Salo thanked the Commissioners and all in attendance on the call for participating.

Chair Salo asked for a formal roll call. Roll call was taken. It was announced all nine (9) Commissioners were present for a quorum.

II. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of the July 29, 2020 Meeting

Chair Salo asked if there were any revisions to the minutes of the meeting held on July 29, 2020. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was moved by Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna and seconded by Commissioner Brian Smith to approve the minutes as presented. A majority roll call vote was conducted. **All voted in favor. Chair Salo announced the motion is carried.**



B. Request for Approval and Transfer of Appropriated Funds

Chair Salo called on Alissa VanHoof who then presented the Airport Sponsor Contracts and Supplemental Transfers.

Airport Sponsor Contracts

1. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena
2. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena
3. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena
4. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena
5. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena
6. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena
7. Alpena County Regional Airport, Alpena
8. Ann Arbor Municipal Airport, Ann Arbor
9. Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Detroit
10. Willow Run Airport, Detroit
11. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
12. Delta County Airport, Escanaba
13. Frankfort Dow Memorial Field, Frankfort
14. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids
15. Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Grand Rapids
16. Oceana County Airport, Hart/Shelby
17. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain/Kingsford
18. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain/Kingsford
19. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain/Kingsford
20. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain/Kingsford
21. Ford Airport, Iron Mountain/Kingsford
22. Mackinac Island Airport, Mackinac Island
23. Manistee County Blacker Airport, Manistee
24. Sawyer International Airport, Marquette
25. Sawyer International Airport, Marquette
26. Menominee Regional Airport, Menominee
27. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston
28. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston
29. Pellston Regional Airport of Emmet County, Pellston
30. Mackinac County Airport, Saint Ignace

Supplemental Transfers >15% of Original Transfer

31. Oakland County International Airport, Waterford/Pontiac
32. Manistee Country Blacker Airport, Manistee

Supplemental Transfers – No Action Required

1. Oakland County International Airport, Waterford/Pontiac
2. Oakland County International Airport, Waterford/Pontiac



3. MBS International Airport, Saginaw
4. West Michigan Regional Airport, Holland

Chair Salo asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve item Nos. 1-32. The motion was moved by Commissioner Rick Fiddler and seconded by Commissioner Brian Smith to approve the Airport Sponsor Contracts, as presented. A majority roll call vote was conducted.

All voted in favor. *Note: Commissioner Burris abstained on the vote regarding Ann Arbor and Commissioner Jacobs abstained on the vote regarding Mackinaw Island, both due to known conflicts of interest.* **Chair Salo announced the motion is carried.**

A complete list of contract descriptions can be viewed at www.michigan.gov/aero under the Commission tab.

III. REPORTS

A. MAC Director's Report

Chair Salo called on Director Trout who then presented his report.

Director Trout began by announcing September was declared Aviation Month in Michigan by Governor Whitmer proclamation. He thanked everyone for their hard work in bringing awareness to the important aviation work being conducted in the state.

Director Trout shared an overview of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding, stating 94 Michigan airports are eligible for a total amount of \$256,958,769 in operational funds. He shared a breakdown of State Block Grant and Direct Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant amounts, as well as the amount of reimbursement requests.

Director Trout discussed the fiscal year (FY) 2021 Office of Aeronautics (Aero) budget outlook, explaining Aero's appropriation exists across four major line items - Aviation Services, Air Fleet Operations, Airport Improvement Program, and Air Service Program. He stated funding in each area would be slightly reduced in the proposed budget with the Air Service Program showing the largest reduction. A final budget is expected to be in place by October 1, 2020. He explained Aero revenue sources including registration and license fees; airport parking tax; aviation fuel excise tax; and aviation fuel sales tax.

Director Trout gave a in depth explanation on the breakdown of the aviation sales and excise fuel tax revenue. He further shared the overall revenue amount of \$3,304,129 for FY 20 through July, which is down -25% compared to last year and down -33% from the 5-year average (2015-2020).

Director Trout updated the Commission on various Aero stats including 5,087 aircraft registrations processed, 104 dealer licenses issued, 40 flight school licenses issued, 4,753 tall structure permits received, and 113 airport development projects

environmentally cleared. He noted both the number of dealer licenses issued and environmentally cleared projects have increased over FY 2019.

Director Trout provided the following updates on various topics of interest:

- The draft Aeronautics Flight Operations Manual is completed with the final review and equipment list update occurring now.
- FY 2021 Statewide Paint Marking and Crack Seal Program Call for Projects was sent out. Deadline for submission is October 31, 2020.
- All Block Grant sponsors need to complete the Independent Consultant Fee Estimates. MDOT Project Managers are unable to do this as they are acting as the FAA for Block Grant airports causing a conflict.
- The state airport Request for Proposals (RFPs) are currently posted on www.michigan.gov/aero.
- The State Long Range Transportation Plan (Michigan Mobility 2045) is currently being developed and there is a need for aviation feedback. Please visit <https://mm2045.metroquest.com> to assist.

Director Trout relayed the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Task Force met on Tuesday, August 18. At that meeting, presentations were given by Trevor Pawl from the Michigan Office of Future Mobility, Commissioner Kevin Jacobs from the Department of Natural Resources, and Mike Soper from Aero. The Task Force welcomed new and re-appointed members Andrew Cardinale, Marlon Brown, Randee Rewerts, Michael Heise, Justin Morren, Kevin Klein, and Director Mike Trout. Bryan Budds gave an update on a new research project with Ohio Department of Transportation on multi-modal connected corridors.

Director Trout proudly announced the MDOT PFAS Grant Program was the winner of the 2020 NASAO State Innovation Award. This honor was recognized at the NASAO Conference held September 14-16. Congratulations were offered to all those involved in the project.

Director Trout concluded his presentation with acknowledgement of the following:

- Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna presented alongside Governor Gretchen Whitmer to announce the Future for Frontliners program, offering tuition-free college to an estimated 625,000 Michiganders who provided essential services during the Covid 19 Stay Home, Stay Safe order.
- Aero employees Linn Smith and Ken Bowers were nominated for the 2020 MDOT Director's Award.
- Thank you to Aero staff – Alissa VanHoof, Jim Hartman, Betsy Steudle, Any Taneja, Nikki Moore, Ken Bowers, and Joel Camfield – for their hard work and efficiency in processing CARES Act grants.
- Congratulations to Paul Bruder, new Aero Maintenance Mechanic Supervisor.

IV. MAC AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

In 1990, the MAC began a tradition to recognize individuals and organizations each year whose innovative contributions have led to significant improvements to facilities, operations or public relations that support aviation in Michigan. Since that time, many



groups and individuals throughout Michigan have been recognized by the MAC for their significant commitment to aviation and their extraordinary efforts, with the MAC Excellence Award.

Chair Salo announced this year two individuals were being recognized for the award.

Chair Salo announced the first winner as Mr. Jeff Nagel, reading from the award as follows: *In recognition of your outstanding contributions to the aviation industry through your 36 years of dedicated service in the State of Michigan. Your commitment to innovation and improvement during your time as Airport Manager of MBS International Airport resulted in multiple airport developments, including the launch of a new passenger terminal and successful runway rehabilitation. Your accomplishments are a true example of leadership and dedication to the aviation industry.* Chair Salo offered his congratulations and invited Mr. Nagel to say a few words. Mr. Nagel thanked the Commission for the honor.

Chair Salo announced the second winner as Mr. Brian Picardat, reading from the award as follows: *In recognition of your outstanding contributions to the aviation industry through your 31 years of dedicated service, most recently as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority. Your commitment to innovation and improvements resulted in multiple airport advancements, including the award-winning Gateway Transformation Project. Your dedication and devotion are prime examples of the leadership qualities you exemplified as part of the aviation community in the State of Michigan.* Chair Salo offered his congratulations and invited Mr. Picardat to say a few words. Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Picardat was unable to be heard during the meeting, however, he did express his thanks to the Commission after the meeting with Director Trout.

Chair Salo announced the organization award winner as the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Museum – Detroit Chapter, reading from the award as follows: *In recognition of your outstanding commitment to preserving and promoting an essential piece of the Nation's aviation heritage while also securing future growth in aviation through its Aviation Career Education Academy, Airmen Flight Academy, and African American History and Aviation Career Week. The dedication of all those associated with the Tuskegee Airmen National Museum exemplifies and carries on the spirit and drive of the Museum's namesake while providing more than 4,000 students an introduction to the rich heritage that exists within the State of Michigan.* Chair Salo offered his congratulations and asked Commissioner Brian Smith, President of the Tuskegee Airmen National Museum Detroit Chapter and Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson, retired Tuskegee Airman with the 332nd Fighter Group serving in the US Army Air Corps during WW II and one of the last living airmen, to accept the award and say a few words. Lt. Col. Jefferson thanked the Commission and Dr. Smith also thanked the Commission, and spoke on the history of the organization, also noting the museum hopes to re-open soon, having been closed due to Covid 19, inviting the Commissioners to visit once able.

V. ELECTIONS

Chair Salo led into the elections by announcing his term had come to an end. He thanked the Commission and Commissioners for his successful tenure as Chairperson.

Chair Salo then stated in accordance with MAC bylaws and pursuant to agreement from members of the Nominating Committee, comprised of Chair Salo, Commissioner Kelly Burris and Commissioner Brian Smith, the following nominations were tendered for the offices of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the MAC, for a one year term beginning immediately upon election. Chair Salo nominated for the office of Chairperson, Commissioner Rick Fiddler and for the office of Vice-Chairperson, Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna. These nominations required a vote of majority approval.

Chair Salo asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the nominations as presented. The motion was moved by Commissioner Brian Smith and seconded by Commissioner Bryan Teff to approve nominations. A majority roll call vote was conducted. **All voted in favor.** *Note: Commissioner Fiddler and Commissioner Kavalhuna abstained on the vote due to conflicts of interest.* **Chair Salo announced the motion is carried.**

Chair Salo then turned the meeting over to new Chairperson Rick Fiddler.

New Chair Fiddler thanked the Commission for the honor of being elected Chairperson. He then called on Director Trout for recognition of past Chair Salo.

Director Trout highlighted Mr. Salo's accomplishments including the successful transition to virtual meetings, oversight of the CARES Act transfers, support of the NASAO award winning PFAS grant initiative, formation of the AWOS Task Force, and revision of the Flight Operations Manual. He thanked Mr. Salo for a job well done and virtually presented him with the traditional gavel plaque.

VI. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

New Chairperson Fiddler stated in accordance with Article VI of the MAC Bylaws on Standing Committees, he has the honor and duty to appoint members to the Executive Committee. He continues the bylaws state the Committee is to be comprised of three commissioners, at least two of whom shall be appointive, with the Commission Chair serving and acting as presiding officer. Chair Fiddler then appointed Vice Chairperson Russ Kavalhuna and immediate past Chairperson Roger Salo to serve with him on the Executive Committee. No vote was required.

Chair Fiddler then stated it had been past practice to establish various special committees to evaluate issues that may arise, drawing on the expertise of the commissioners as necessary to establish specific task forces or groups. He then confirmed the continuation of the established Automated Weather Operating Systems (AWOS) Task Group with the current membership of Chair Fiddler, Bill Brickner, Mark Johnson, Mike Soper, Mike Trout and Bryan Budds, with additional members to be added as needed for future involvement. No vote was required.

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Fiddler asked if any Commissioners would like to make a comment.

Commissioner Russ Kavalhuna commented on past Chair Roger Salo's commitment and dedication to the MAC, offering his thanks for a job well done. He then noted how the MAC serves the aeronautic community and aviation in Michigan proudly and without prejudice to political party or politics. He then stated his congratulations to new Chair Fiddler on his appointment, recognizing he will represent the Commission well and thanked the commission for his appointment as Vice Chairperson.

Commissioner Brian Smith supported Commissioner Kavalhuna's remarks on both Mr. Salo and Chair Fiddler. He thanked the Commission for his support as a new Commissioner.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Fiddler asked if anyone would like to make a public comment. No public comments were made.

CLOSING

The next Michigan Aeronautics Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2020, as a virtual teleconference via Microsoft Teams.

Chair Fiddler thanked the Commissioners, Office of Aeronautics staff, and the public for their participation today, reminding everyone that information presented today could be found at www.michigan.gov/aero or by calling 517-335-9568.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Rick Fiddler, Chairman

Michael G. Trout, Director